

# 14 IN CRASH NEAR A-TEST SITE

## AF Plane Wrecked on Hop From Burbank

**Details Withheld  
But AEC Denies  
It Had Ordered  
Security Blanket**

CPYRGHT

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Nov. 17 (AP)—A large Air Force

transport plane, en route with 14 aboard to the Atomic Energy Commission's Nevada Proving Ground, crashed today in the snow-cloaked Charleston Mountains.

It was presumed the 14, as yet unidentified, perished. A rescue party was near or at the scene in the rugged, wooded mountains, 27 miles northwest of here.

Snow fell over the mountain range all day and into the night. Snow depths ranged from 4 inches to 2 feet.

CPYRGHT

The transport left early today from Burbank, Calif., and at 3 p. m., Pacific time, was overdue 8 hours at Indian Springs Air Force Base near the atomic bomb test site at Yucca and Frenchman Flats.

Details of the crash were shrouded in secrecy. March Air Force Base at Riverside, Calif., said that it had information on the crash but that for security reasons it could not release any.

This gave rise to speculation that the plane, believed to be a four-engine C54, may have been carrying scientists or classified equipment to the AEC test site.

However, an AEC spokesman at Albuquerque, N. M., said that any embargo on information about the crash "is not for AEC security reasons." The spokesman added that the AEC had no knowledge of the missing plane.

When the aircraft failed to arrive as scheduled at Indian Springs AFB, a search was started. A few hours later the wreckage was reported sighted, far off the usual aircraft

First reports of the crash came from an Air Force rest camp on Mt. Charleston. However, the information was very meager.

Later Nellis Air Force Base, near here, officially reported the crash and said 14 were aboard. The release said the aircraft was en route from Burbank to the AEC test site, 75 miles from here.

In Washington, Col. W. L. Helmantoler, chief of the public information division of Air Force headquarters, said "there is no reason to withhold anything for security reasons."

"It's just another plane crash," he said, adding that the craft carried Air Force personnel and "some civilian consultants." He said he did not know how many of each.